

## Registering Your Business in Wisconsin

Depending on the type of business entity you choose, you may need to register your business with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) at 608-261-9555 or [www.wdfi.org/corporations](http://www.wdfi.org/corporations). Corporations, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships, nonprofits, and franchises **MUST** register with DFI.

Sole proprietors and general partnerships do not have to register with DFI. Sole proprietorships or general partnerships intending to obtain credit under a "doing business as" name must complete and submit a Registration of Firm Name application with the Register of Deeds of the county in which the business is located. If you do not intend to obtain credit, the registration is voluntary. A voluntary trade-name registration can also be done with the Secretary of State. To obtain the trade-name registration form from the Secretary of State, call 608-266-5653.

To find your county contact at the Register of Deeds, visit [www.wrdaonline.org/wrdalist.html](http://www.wrdaonline.org/wrdalist.html).

Type of Business Entity	Where to Register	Voluntary or Mandatory
Corporation	WI Department of Financial Institutions	Mandatory
Franchise	WI Department of Financial Institutions	Mandatory
General Partnership	Register of Deeds and/or Secretary of State	Voluntary
Limited Liability Company	WI Department of Financial Institutions	Mandatory
Limited Liability Partnership	WI Department of Financial Institutions	Mandatory
Limited Partnership	WI Department of Financial Institutions	Mandatory
Non Profit	WI Department of Financial Institutions	Mandatory
Sole Proprietor	Register of Deeds and/or Secretary of State	Voluntary